



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Release

Pacific Islands External Affairs Office

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2005 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Program Deadline Nearing

The deadline for the 2005 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest is only a month away. Entries must be postmarked by March 15 to compete in this year's contest.

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program is an integrated art and science curriculum developed to teach environmental science and habitat conservation. The program is a tool for children to learn about waterfowl and their habitat, and an opportunity to demonstrate their artistic talents.

Entries are limited to North American ducks, geese, swans, or Hawaiian species. "Although most of the entries in past years have depicted nene, we welcome other subjects as well," said Sandra Hall, Hawaii's FJDS Coordinator. "Other species found in Hawaii would include the Laysan duck and koloa, and migratory waterfowl such as the northern pintail, American wigeon, and the northern shoveler."

The contest is open to all private, public, and home schooled students from K-12 grades. Entries will be judged in four grade groups, and three first, second and third place ribbons will be awarded in each group. A State Best of Show will be chosen from the 12 first place winning designs and will compete in the national contest in Washington, D.C.

Numerous local prizes ranging from art supplies and books to a hand-carved duck decoy will be awarded. First place national winner receives a \$5,000 cash award and a free trip to Washington, DC (Summer 2005) to attend the First Day of Sales Ceremony, along with his/her art teacher, one of his/her parents, and his/her state coordinator. The national first place winning design is used to produce the Federal Junior Duck Stamp.

The second place national winner receives a \$3,000 cash award; and the third place winner receives a \$2,000 cash award. In addition to the national awards for the State Best of Show art entries, cash awards will also be given for the conservation message requested on the entry form. The conservation message cash awards (\$500 for 1st place, \$300 for 2nd place and \$200 for 3rd place) will be chosen from the State Best of Show entries competing at the national level.

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Entries must be horizontal and 9" x 12" in size. Entries may not exceed ¼-inch in total thickness and may not be matted or framed. Any media may be used but chalk and pastel entries must be sprayed with a fixative. No lettering, initials or signatures may appear on the front of the design. Entry forms are available through the Fish and Wildlife Service's Honolulu office.

Send your entry to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 5-311, Box 50187, Honolulu, HI 96850. For more information contact State Coordinator Sandra Hall at 808/792-9530.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.